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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/520,810	KRAMER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Walter Benson	2858	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 2/23/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14, 15 and 17-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>hereto</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Striker, Reg. No. 27,233 on 3/16/06 and William Valance, Reg. No. 28,275 on 3/17/06.
3. In the claims filed 2/23/06:
 - I. In claim 14:
 - (i.) 14.(new) An electronic monitoring circuit for monitoring one of at least two series-connected capacitor units in an intermediate circuit in order to detect short-circuiting of said one of said capacitor units, said monitoring circuit (16) comprising:
 - means for deriving a reference voltage (14) from an intermediate-circuit voltage (L(+).L(-)) applied across said at least two series-connected capacitor units (1, 2);
 - means for generating a control signal consisting of a voltage difference between said reference voltage (14) and a junction voltage at a junction (13) between two of said capacitor units (1, 2); and

means for generating an error signal when said control signal falls below or exceeds an activation threshold voltage thus indicating that said one of said capacitor units (1.2) has been short-circuited;

wherein said means for generating said error signal when said voltage difference falls below or exceeds said activation threshold voltage comprises a zener diode (15) and said activation threshold voltage corresponds to a breakdown voltage of said zener diode.

(II) Cancel claim 16.

(III) In claim 19:

(i.) line 4, replace “with” with –when—.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 14, 15, and 17-25 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The prior art of record fails to teach in combination as claimed an electronic monitoring circuit for monitoring one of at least two series-connected capacitor units in an intermediate circuit in order to detect short-circuiting of one of the capacitor units. The monitoring circuit includes generating an error signal when the control signal falls below or exceeds an activation threshold voltage thus indicating that one of the capacitor units has been short-circuited. The means for generating the error signal when the voltage difference falls below or exceeds the activation threshold voltage comprises a zener diode

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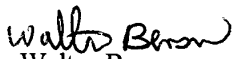
and the activation threshold voltage corresponds to a breakdown voltage of the zener diode.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Walter Benson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2227. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Walter Benson
Primary Examiner

March 17, 2006